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PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME I. MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY, DISARMAMENT AND DECOLONIZATION

Programme 3. Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services

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* The present document contains programme 3 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

PROGRAMME 3. POLITICAL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY AFFAIRS AND SECRETARIAT SERVICES

A. Programme

1. General orientation

3.1 The primary purpose of this programme is to provide adequate support services for the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, two principal organs of the United Nations, and related political analysis and advice to the Secretary-General. The basic mandate for the programme is thus the Charter of the United Nations. Discharge of these functions means that the responsible official, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services, is also well placed to perform certain other political functions assigned to him by the Secretary-General.

3.2 As the agendas of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have grown since the establishment of the Organization, so has the task of providing services to these principal organs. The growing complexity of many global issues and their increasingly interdisciplinary nature are reflected in the proliferation of subsidiary intergovernmental machinery and related secretariat structures and in the documentation that records the work of those bodies. This trend has increased the importance and difficulty of co-ordinating the contributions of these intergovernmental and secretariat entities to the work of the Assembly and the Council.

2. Overall strategy

3.3 Activities under this programme will be carried out by the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services. Prior to 1987, servicing functions related to the Economic and Social Council were carried out by the Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters. As part of the Secretary-General's measures for implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, however, the functions of that Office relating to the technical servicing of meetings in the economic and social fields were assumed by the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs, now renamed the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services.

3.4 In carrying out its functions, the Office will plan and help to organize meetings of the General Assembly, the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and subsidiary bodies, including the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination; provide the secretariat of these bodies; ensure co-ordination of the work of the Secretariat in their support; provide editorial services for documentation submitted to and by them; and follow up on implementation of resolutions adopted. Political functions will involve preparation of analyses, provision of advice and co-ordination of specified activities, including those relating to the reconstruction and development of Lebanon and relations with non-governmental organizations.

3.5 In relation to its servicing activities, the Office will ensure effective co-ordination with many offices, notably the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, including the Protocol and Liaison Service, and the Department of Conference Services. Its editorial functions require co-operation with a wide range of author departments, as well as with Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Missions, as does effective follow-up of resolutions adopted. In fulfilling its co-ordination and liaison role at Headquarters for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon, the Office will assist and co-operate with the Office of the Co-ordinator of United Nations Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon, as well as with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other programmes and organizations of the United Nations system concerned with this issue. In its co-ordination role for relations with non-governmental organizations, the Office will co-operate closely with a number of other departments and offices within the Secretariat, but especially with the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, both of which have special responsibilities for relations with non-governmental organizations.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

3.6 The programme on Political and General Assembly affairs and Secretariat services will consist of the following subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1: Political affairs

Subprogramme 2: General Assembly affairs

Subprogramme 3: Economic and Social Council affairs and secretariat services

Priority will be given to servicing of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and subsidiary bodies.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. POLITICAL AFFAIRS

(a) Objectives

3.7 The legislative authority for this subprogramme is Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations; General Assembly resolution 33/146 and annual resolutions on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon, most recently Assembly resolution 44/180; and Secretary-General's bulletins ST/SGB/Organization section F/Rev.3 and ST/SGB/209.

3.8 Continuing adverse conditions in Lebanon have severely hindered the Secretary-General's efforts for the reconstruction and development of that country, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 33/146 and subsequent annual resolutions, most recently Assembly resolution 44/180. The position of Co-ordinator of United Nations Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon was vacant from the beginning of 1985 until the beginning of 1988, when the Resident Representative of UNDP and Resident Co-ordinator of the United Nations System's Operational Activities for Development in Lebanon was also appointed as

Co-ordinator of United Nations Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon. The Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services continued co-ordination efforts during this hiatus. The scope of activities needed to deal with the likely humanitarian and development needs of Lebanon during the plan period will entail a concerted effort by the entire United Nations system, together with others, with a consequent need for co-ordination of efforts.

3.9 This subprogramme will aim at ensuring adequate liaison and backstopping at Headquarters for the Office of the Co-ordinator of United Nations Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon and at supporting his co-ordination role.

3.10 The United Nations, from its inception, has recognized that non-governmental organizations have an important and constructive role in furthering the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in contributing to and supporting the Organization's work. Non-governmental organizations have made a valuable contribution to the work of the United Nations by drawing attention to issues, suggesting ideas and programmes, and disseminating information to promote an informed understanding about its aims and activities.

3.11 Increasingly, in their resolutions, the main organs of the United Nations and their subsidiary organs call upon non-governmental organizations to participate in and contribute to programmes and activities. As a result, both the volume and the complexity of co-operative arrangements between non-governmental organizations and Secretariat units have expanded, and with them the need to ensure effective co-ordination of such relationships.

3.12 This subprogramme will aim to promote a co-ordinated approach to non-governmental organizations by the various departments, offices and programmes of the United Nations and disseminate information on such organizations within the Secretariat.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

3.13 In the course of the medium-term plan period, the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services will:

(a) Co-ordinate activities at Headquarters for the Office of the Co-ordinator of United Nations Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon and co-operate with that office in ensuring effective co-ordination of activities in this area;

(b) Provide overall co-ordination and policy guidance to the various secretariat units and programmes dealing with non-governmental organizations;

(c) Organize, service and chair regular meetings of the Working Group on Relations between Non-governmental Organizations and the Secretariat and the United Nations Programmes;

(d) Compile and distribute a directory of departments and offices of the Secretariat and United Nations programmes that have relationships with non-governmental organizations;

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(e) Compile a monthly report on activities of departments and offices dealing with non-governmental organizations.

3.14 In addition, the Office of the Under-Secretary-General will, as requested, monitor global political developments, prepare political analyses, reports, assessments and recommendations and undertake political assignments and other responsibilities as assigned by the Secretary-General.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. GENERAL ASSEMBLY AFFAIRS

(a) Objectives

3.15 The legislative authority for this subprogramme is contained in articles 1, 9 to 22 and 98 of the Charter, and the Secretary-General's Bulletin ST/SGB/Organization Section F/Rev.3.

3.16 As the volume and scope of issues before the General Assembly have grown, so has the complexity of ensuring adequate support services for the Assembly and subsidiary bodies. Global issues emerging are of an increasingly interdisciplinary nature, requiring careful co-ordination of efforts in response to initiatives of the General Assembly, as well as also involving a growing number of subsidiary intergovernmental bodies and supporting secretariat units. All of these factors have complicated the task of co-ordinating the scheduling of and services for the Assembly and subsidiary bodies, as well as the interaction among the Main Committees and between the plenary and the Main Committees of the General Assembly. The passage of time has also increased the corpus of parliamentary precedent, which must be available to guide the organization of sessions of the Assembly and subsidiary bodies.

3.17 In addition, the practice of holding the regular session of the General Assembly for 13 weeks has become obsolete. For a number of years the regular sessions have been suspended in December and resumed, as necessary, throughout the intervening period until the opening of the following regular session on the third Tuesday of September. In addition, the Assembly has held an increasing number of special and special emergency sessions.

3.18 This subprogramme will aim to ensure adequate secretariat and support services to the General Assembly as well as to subsidiary bodies, other than those in the economic and social areas for which services will be provided under subprogramme 3, Economic and Social Council affairs and secretariat services, as outlined below. In this context, it will aim to ensure effective scheduling of meetings to allow adequate time for intergovernmental review and interaction with other bodies; timely submission of properly edited documentation; orderly conduct of intergovernmental meetings; and suitable technical arrangements for the submission and follow up of resolutions of the General Assembly and other bodies serviced.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

3.19 In implementing this subprogramme, the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services, and in particular the Division of General Assembly Affairs, will:

(a) Organize, plan and co-ordinate all activities related to the organization of General Assembly sessions within the Secretariat, as well as between the Secretariat and delegations, organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations;

(b) Prepare and submit for issuance all documents relating to the organization and to the provisional and final agenda of the General Assembly;

(c) Organize, plan and co-ordinate services, inter alia, with the Department of Conference Services, for the plenary meetings of the General Assembly and the meetings of its General Committee;

(d) Assist the President of the General Assembly on all matters relating to the conduct of the work of the General Assembly, including the work of the Main Committees and subsidiary organs;

(e) Advise the President, Member States, other delegations and the Secretariat offices concerned regarding the rules of procedure and practices of the General Assembly and maintain an updated compilation of related precedents to facilitate the conduct of meetings of the Assembly and its subsidiary organs;

(f) Advise those responsible for documentation for the General Assembly and on matters relating to the Official Records of the General Assembly;

(g) Identify Secretariat units responsible for implementation of General Assembly resolutions and decisions and establish the basic agenda for the next session;

(h) Prepare, in consultation with substantive departments and offices concerned, the basic programme of work of the General Assembly;

(i) Co-ordinate production of General Assembly documents by the Secretariat, including establishment and maintenance of the schedule of documentation for the current session and approval of documents for issuance in accordance with the appropriate legislative mandate;

(j) Ensure, through editing, that General Assembly documents prepared by the Secretariat and emanating from Member States or subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly are clear, comprehensible and correct;

(k) Maintain a reference system on subsidiary organs of the General Assembly.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS AND SECRETARIAT SERVICES

(a) Objectives

3.20 Legislative authority for this subprogramme is contained in Article 13, paragraph 1 (b), and chapter X (The Economic and Social Council) of the Charter, and the Secretary-General's Bulletin ST/SGB/163.

3.21 As the range of economic and social issues before the United Nations has grown so has the agenda of the Economic and Social Council, as well as its subsidiary machinery and the supporting secretariat structures. Since emerging global issues are of an increasingly interdisciplinary nature, the importance and

complexity of co-ordination within the United Nations and the United Nations system, a major responsibility of the Council and of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, has also grown. These various factors have increased the volume of material considered by the Council and other intergovernmental forums and complicated the task of scheduling and organizing related meetings so as to facilitate the success of their work.

3.22 The subprogramme aims, through its activities, to support the work of Member States in the various intergovernmental forums for whose servicing it is responsible, namely, the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies concerned with economic and social matters (the Second and Third Committees, and ad hoc committees of special sessions of the Assembly concerned with such matters); the Economic and Social Council and most of its subsidiary bodies; the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination; and ad hoc bodies and special conferences dealing with economic and social matters, including their preparatory bodies. To this end, it will aim:

(a) To ensure that the substantive inputs to intergovernmental meetings are translated into effective, coherent and orderly proceedings, responsive to legislative authority or other appropriate mandates;

(b) To ensure that meetings are organized in a manner that will assist those taking part in carrying out their work effectively and expeditiously;

(c) To ensure a co-ordinated policy review of documentation;

(d) To ensure, through editing, that documentation and publications in the economic and social fields are clear, comprehensive and correct.

(b) Course of action by the Secretariat

3.23 In implementing this subprogramme, the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services, and in particular the Division of Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services, will:

(a) Plan and organize, in co-operation with the Department of Conference Services, scheduling of meetings within its responsibility, ensuring the availability of material required from various sources and preparing or assisting in the preparation, drafting and issuance of provisional and final agendas and annotations thereto and reports;

(b) Prepare and manage, in consultation with the Department of Conference Services, the calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic and social fields;

(c) Inform substantive units of relevant developments at the intergovernmental level, including resolutions and decisions adopted, and ensure that intergovernmental bodies are informed of actions taken within the United Nations system in response to the decisions of those bodies;

(d) Assist in the formulation of the provisional agendas of the General Assembly in respect of economic and social matters and in all relevant organizational aspects;

(e) Provide the technical secretariat for special conferences dealing with economic and social matters and for their preparatory bodies;

(f) Prepare, in consultation with the substantive units concerned, the basic programme of work of the Economic and Social Council;

(g) Review relevant documentation being submitted to intergovernmental bodies in the economic and social fields in order to ensure that they conform to strict legislative requirements, and ensure clearance where problems of a political, legal and budgetary nature are involved;

(h) Ensure the proper and timely editing of documentation for the Council and its subsidiary bodies, the Second Committee of the General Assembly, the ad hoc committees of its special sessions concerned with economic and social matters and special conferences dealing with such matters and all publications emanating from the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the Centre for Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, as approved by the Publications Board.

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PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME I. MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY, DISARMAMENT AND DECOLONIZATION

Programme 4. Special Political Questions, Trusteeship and Decolonization

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* The present document contains programme 4 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

PROGRAMME 4: SPECIAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS, TRUSTEESHIP AND DECOLONIZATION

A. Programme

1. General orientation

4.1 The activities consolidated under this programme are derived from Chapters I, III, VI, VIII, IX, XI, XII, XIII and XV of the Charter. General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) marked the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) established the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Subsequent General Assembly resolutions 2621 (XXV), 35/118, 40/56 and 44/101 were adopted, charging the Special Committee, inter alia, to examine the full compliance of States with the Declaration. The mandate of the programme is further elaborated in a number of resolutions with regard to specific territories or issues adopted on annual and biennial bases, the most recent of which are General Assembly resolutions 43/25, 44/9, 44/83 to 44/85, 44/87 to 44/100 and 44/102, Security Council resolution 621 (1988) and Economic and Social Council resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 1989/95. This programme also encompasses activities in the area of regional co-operation, which are called for by annual General Assembly resolutions on co-operation with regional and interregional organizations, the most recent of which are resolutions 43/4, 44/7, 44/8 and 44/17.

4.2 The main objectives of this programme are:

(a) Bringing about the resolution of specific questions of a political nature through consultations with parties involved and through co-operation and co-ordination of international actions;

(b) Ensuring that the inhabitants of all dependent territories are given the opportunity to exercise fully and freely their inalienable right to self-determination, freedom and independence at the earliest possible date in accordance with the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples.

4.3 The resolution of special questions of a political nature has been a continuing preoccupation of the United Nations over the years to the extent that these problems affected the maintenance of international peace and security. In the context of its adoption of the revisions to the Medium-Term Plan for the period 1984-1989, by its resolution 41/203 the General Assembly placed emphasis on the political aspects of social, economic and humanitarian questions relating to Africa. This involves keeping abreast of emerging significant political questions of concern to the United Nations, and informing and advising the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council as appropriate. Liaison with regional and interregional organizations and associations has been maintained in order to facilitate the resolution of such questions whenever co-operation with them was a factor.

4.4 The question of the co-operation between the United Nations and regional and interregional organizations and associations was first considered by the General Assembly at its twentieth session, in 1965, when it discussed the question of the co-operation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) (resolution 2011 (XX)).

The General Assembly subsequently considered the issues of co-operation with the Organization of Islamic Conference (resolution 35/36); of co-operation with the League of Arab States (resolution 36/24); and of co-operation with the Organization of American States (resolution 43/4). In all cases, through subsequent annual resolutions the General Assembly has called for a strengthening and a broadening of co-operation with those regional and interregional organizations in the political, economic, social and cultural fields as such co-operation is viewed as an important factor in strengthening international peace and security, disarmament, decolonization, self-determination and the eradication of all forms of racism and racial discrimination as well as in the areas of social, economic and cultural development of countries and regions.

4.5 Under the international Trusteeship System provided for in Chapters XII and XIII of the Charter, the United Nations assumed supervisory responsibilities in regard to the administration of 11 dependent territories, known as Trust Territories, which had been placed under trusteeship by individual agreements. The basic objectives of the Trusteeship System are listed in Article 76 of the Charter. These include, inter alia, the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of each Territory and their progressive development towards self-government or independence in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned. Only one territory - the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which is designated a strategic area - currently remains under the Trusteeship System. In accordance with the provision of the Charter and by virtue of the Trusteeship Agreement signed with the Security Council in 1947, the United States of America is the Administering Authority for the Territory.

4.6 In accordance with the Charter, for non-strategic areas the machinery and procedures of international supervision are entrusted to the General Assembly while the Security Council carries out this function with respect to areas designated as strategic. In both cases the Trusteeship Council, which is a principal organ of the United Nations established under Article 7 of the Charter, provides the necessary assistance.

4.7 The decolonization activities of the United Nations derive basically from Chapter XI of the Charter, which, inter alia, asserts the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and from General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, which contains the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. By adopting that Declaration, the General Assembly proclaimed the necessity of bringing colonialism to a speedy and unconditional end. It called for immediate steps to be taken in all territories that have not yet attained independence, to transfer all powers to the peoples of these territories, without any conditions or reservations, in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire, in order to enable them to enjoy complete independence and freedom.

4.8 Since then the General Assembly has reviewed annually the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration, considering ways and means to advance the process of decolonization. Many colonial territories have attained independence on the basis of the freely exercised right of their people, and were proclaimed independent States or part of existing States. Eighteen territories, including the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, still remain non-self-governing, however, and their future has yet to be decided on in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter. In pursuance of that

goal the General Assembly at its forty-third session declared the years 1990 to 2000 as the International Decade of the Eradication of Colonialism, in order to usher in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism (resolution 43/47).

2. Overall strategy

4.9 Developments on special questions of a political nature, with particular emphasis on the political aspects of specific social, economic and humanitarian questions relating to Africa, will continue to be monitored over the plan period. The General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council will be kept informed on the implementation of the relevant resolutions, and ad hoc missions will continue to be undertaken pursuant to standing mandates. On the basis of the findings of those missions Member States will continue to be provided with necessary assistance at their request. Effective co-operation will continue to be maintained with regional and interregional organizations, associations and conferences dealing with matters of concern to the United Nations.

4.10 During the plan period the Trusteeship System will continue to function as long as the last strategic territory - the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands - remains under the System. The Trusteeship Council, as a principal United Nations organ, will therefore, on behalf of the Security Council, continue to discharge its responsibilities with regard to the Territory until the achievement of the final goal.

4.11 The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which was established in 1961 as the principal subsidiary body of the General Assembly concerned with the broad problem of decolonization, will continue to study existing conditions in each of the remaining 18 non-self-governing territories on the basis of working papers prepared for it by the Secretariat and with the participation of representatives of the administering Powers. The Special Committee will, inter alia, formulate proposals to hasten the decolonization process; encourage concerted efforts by the international community in support of decolonization and promote the mobilization of world public opinion to that end; and provide assistance to colonial peoples.

4.12 The programme will be implemented through the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship. The functions and responsibilities of the Department, as well as its organizational structure, are set out in the Organizational Manual (ST/SGB/ORG., Section SPQRCDT/OCN, of 24 February 1989).

4.13 The work of the Department derives from the mandates given annually by the General Assembly and from the programmes of work of the Trusteeship Council and of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The major areas of work for the Department will continue to be research and monitoring of developments in trust and non-self-governing territories, and monitoring of political developments in the world with specific emphasis to questions relating to Africa; substantive servicing of the sessions of the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee and of their visiting missions to the territories and other missions, and also of conferences, seminars and other events that may be organized

or sponsored by the Special Committee. These activities entail the preparation of research papers, specialized studies and reports and the dissemination of information on the process of decolonization. In the area of regional co-operation, the Department will hold consultations as appropriate with the secretariats of the regional and interregional organizations, for the implementation of relevant Assembly resolutions, and will report to the General Assembly.

4.14 The implementation of the programme will be carried out in co-operation with the departments and offices responsible for the following Programmes: Good offices, special missions and peace-keeping operations, Political and Security Council affairs, Political and General Assembly affairs, Elimination of apartheid, Special programmes and activities, including least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, Regional co-operation for development in Africa, Promotion and protection of human rights, International protection of and assistance to refugees, Disaster relief, including special emergency programmes, and Public information.

4.15 The implementation of the programme will require continuing co-ordination with the secretariat of the Economic and Social Council and with a number of specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and some regional and interregional organizations and associations which share in varying degrees the political and social concerns of this programme, in particular, in respect of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The continuing co-operation with non-governmental organizations and individuals with an active interest in successful implementation of the process of decolonization is also foreseen.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

4.16 In light of the above orientations and general objectives, the programme will consist of the following subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1: Special political questions and regional co-operation

Subprogramme 2: Trusteeship and decolonization

4.17 In view of the importance attached by Member States to the activities to be carried out under the two subprogrammes, no priority designation is proposed.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1: SPECIAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

(a) Objectives

4.18 The legislative authority for this subprogramme derives from Chapters VI, VIII, IX and XV of the Charter relating to the peaceful settlement of disputes and

regional co-operation, and from annual General Assembly resolutions and decisions, the most recent of which are resolutions 43/4, 44/7, 44/8, 44/9, 44/17, and decisions 44/417 and 44/419.

4.19 A wide range of special questions of a political nature are dealt with under this subprogramme. Some of them result from territorial or other disputes between States. Others require action by the United Nations in order to ease tensions or to co-ordinate international action involving political, socio-economic and humanitarian problems. In that regard particular emphasis has been placed on the political aspects of the specific social, economic and humanitarian questions relating to Africa. During the period covered by the plan, pursuant to mandates given to the Secretary-General, the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council will continue to receive reports on developments and progress achieved with regard to the possible resolution of these special political questions.

4.20 Co-operation with regional and interregional organizations and associations in the political, economic, social and humanitarian fields will continue to be maintained. Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa and to the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa will continue in consultation and close co-operation with UNDP, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the regional and interregional organizations and associations.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

4.21 Developments on special questions of a political nature, with particular emphasis on the political aspects of specific social, economic and humanitarian questions relating to Africa, will be monitored and the Secretary-General will be informed of these situations as they develop and presented with recommendations for action, as appropriate. In addition, where requested, reports on developments regarding these questions and the implementation of specific resolutions will be prepared for the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. Ad hoc missions will continue to be undertaken where required. The maintenance of liaison with the secretariats of the regional and interregional organizations and associations will facilitate the resolution of such questions whenever the co-operation of such organizations is deemed appropriate.

4.22 Effective general co-operation will continue to be maintained with the secretariats of the regional and interregional organizations, associations and conferences dealing with political matters of concern to the United Nations, in particular through joint meetings, consultations and other forms of liaison with those secretariats.

4.23 In connection with the resolutions relating to the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa and to the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa, the continuing monitoring of the implementation of those mandates will be maintained in consultations with the secretariats of UNDP, UNHCR and OAU, while the search for a durable solution, involving political action, will continue in close co-operation with UNHCR.

SUBPROGRAMME 2: TRUSTEESHIP AND DECOLONIZATION

(a) Objectives

4.24 The legislative authority for this subprogramme is set out in Chapters III, XI, XII and XIII of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV), 1654 (XVI), 2621 (XXV) and its other annual resolutions and decisions, the most recent of which are resolutions 43/25 and 44/83 to 44/85, 44/87 to 44/102 and decisions 44/406 and 44/425 to 44/428, Security Council resolution 621 (1988) and the annual Economic and Social Council resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 1989/95.

4.25 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) Assisting the Security Council in discharging its responsibilities with regard to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;

(b) Assisting in the attainment of the goal of the Trusteeship System with respect to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands through, inter alia, the promotion of the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants and their progressive development towards self-government or independence in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned;

(c) Promoting the decolonization process through self-determination for the 18 remaining non-self-governing territories, including the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for which the objective is to promote decolonization within the framework of the international Trusteeship System as set out in the Charter;

(d) Strengthening the dissemination of information on decolonization in order to mobilize world opinion and ensuring the provision by the specialized agencies and institutions associated with the United Nations of material assistance to the colonial peoples and their liberation movements, in order to accelerate the decolonization process.

4.26 As long as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands remains under the international Trusteeship System, the Trusteeship Council will continue to discharge its responsibilities with regard to the Territory and assist the Security Council in supervising the administration of that strategic area by the Administering Authority. To that end the Trusteeship Council will continue to dispatch periodic and special Visiting Missions in order to evaluate the process of the political, economic, social and educational advancement of its inhabitants and development of the Territory, examine petitions in consultation with the Administering Authority and review the reports of the Administering Authority.

4.27 The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples will continue to examine the application of the Declaration and to seek suitable means for its immediate and full implementation in all territories which have not yet exercised their right to self-determination and independence. It will formulate specific proposals to this effect, examine the full compliance of States with the Declaration and other resolutions, formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and report thereon to the General Assembly, make concrete suggestions to the Security Council with regard

to developments in colonial territories that are likely to threaten international peace and security, and enlist world-wide support for decolonization. The Special Committee will continue to dispatch visiting missions periodically to colonial territories, so as to enable the Committee to obtain first-hand information on conditions in those territories; examine the views, expressed orally or in writing by the peoples of the colonial territories, and also the views of representatives of non-governmental organizations and individuals with a knowledge of conditions in those territories; assist the General Assembly in making arrangements, in co-operation with the administering Powers, to secure a United Nations presence in the colonial territories to observe or supervise the final stages of the process of decolonization.

(b) Course of action by the Secretariat

4.28 The Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship will continue to assist the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee in the implementation of their mandates, as well as the General Assembly and the Security Council in connection with issues under this subprogramme, as appropriate.

4.29 To that end the Department will:

(a) Provide substantive servicing to the Trusteeship Council, the Special Committee and their respective visiting and other missions as well as to the Security Council and the General Assembly when they are reviewing issues relating to Trusteeship and Decolonization;

(b) Undertake research, analytical studies and reports on conditions in the territories;

(c) Provide assistance to the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee in the preparation of their reports to the General Assembly and the Security Council;

(d) Collect, review and disseminate basic material, studies and articles relating to decolonization;

(e) Promote in co-operation with the Department of Public Information a publicity campaign on decolonization. Subject to the relevant decisions by the Special Committee, this will entail organizing panel discussions and seminars, producing and disseminating publications, organizing exhibits, co-ordinating international activities aimed at the elimination of colonialism, including liaison with secretariats of OAU and other international organizations as well as with non-governmental organizations and individuals concerned with the problems of decolonization;

(f) Promote flows of international material assistance from specialized agencies and institutions associated with the United Nations to the people in the non-self-governing territories and to their liberation movements.

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PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME I. MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY, DISARMAMENT AND DECOLONIZATION

Programme 5. Question of Palestine

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* The present document contains programme 5 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

PROGRAMME 5. QUESTION OF PALESTINE

A. Programme

1. General orientation

5.1 The question of Palestine is one of the most difficult and persistent issues facing the United Nations, having been first considered by the General Assembly at its second session in 1947. Since that time, the question of Palestine has been identified as the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East, which has periodically resulted in armed hostilities in the region, thereby imperilling international peace and security. Despite intensive efforts over the years, the conflict in the Middle East remains a serious threat to international peace and security.

5.2 In its resolution 38/58 C of 13 December 1983, the General Assembly endorsed the Geneva Declaration on Palestine of 7 September 1983 and the call for convening an International Peace Conference on the Middle East, and requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Security Council, urgently to undertake preparatory measures to convene the Conference. The call for convening the proposed Conference was reaffirmed by the Assembly at subsequent sessions. Most recently, in its resolution 44/42 of 6 December 1989, the Assembly called once again for the convening of the Conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, on an equal footing, and the five permanent members of the Security Council, based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination, reaffirmed principles for the achievement of comprehensive peace, and requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts with the parties concerned, and in consultation with the Security Council, to facilitate the convening of the Conference, and to submit progress reports on developments in that matter. The Secretary-General's efforts in this regard are covered under programme 1, "Good offices, special missions and peace-keeping operations", of the present medium-term plan.

5.3 By its resolution 3236 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974, the General Assembly, recalling its relevant resolutions which affirmed the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in Palestine, including the right to self-determination without external interference and the right to national independence and sovereignty. It also reaffirmed the inalienable right of the Palestinians to return to their homes and property, emphasized that full respect for and the realization of those inalienable rights were indispensable for the solution of the question of Palestine, and recognized that the Palestinian people was a principal party in the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. By its resolution 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, the Assembly decided to establish a Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and requested the Committee to consider and recommend to it a programme of implementation designed to enable the

Palestinian people to exercise its rights. Subsequently, by its resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish within the Secretariat of the United Nations a Special Unit on Palestinian Rights, which would, under the guidance of the Committee, prepare studies and publications on the subject, promote maximum publicity for those studies and publications and organize in consultation with the Committee, commencing in 1978, the annual observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Those resolutions constitute the initial mandate for the programme of activities that has evolved since.

5.4 A major factor in the evolution of the programme is the continuing lack of progress towards a just solution of the question of Palestine, for which the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people has been recognized as a condition sine qua non. Although regularly endorsed since 1976 by the General Assembly, the relevant recommendations of the Committee to promote the realization of those rights have neither been acted upon by the Security Council nor otherwise implemented.

5.5 The Palestinian people remains committed to the exercise of its legitimate national and political rights, including self-determination in Palestine. The uprising in the occupied Palestinian territory, the intifadah, which started in December 1987, has continued and intensified as an expression of the determination of the Palestinian people under occupation to reject and bring to an end the Israeli occupation. The General Assembly and the Security Council have repeatedly expressed concern at the resulting tragic loss of life and the widespread violations of human rights of the Palestinian people. The situation brought about by the intifadah and the subsequent political developments have made it imperative to renew efforts to break out of the prevailing impasse and to make concrete progress towards a peaceful, negotiated settlement.

2. Overall strategy

5.6 The major responsibility for the programme rests with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The Committee's basic mandate, as set out in General Assembly resolution 3376 (XXX), is to consider and recommend to the Assembly a programme of implementation designed to enable the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable rights. In subsequent resolutions the Assembly has authorized the Committee to promote implementation of its recommendations and to disseminate, to the greatest extent possible, information on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and on its programme, through non-governmental organizations and other appropriate means. More recently, the Committee has also been guided by the Geneva Declaration on Palestine adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, held in 1983, and endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 38/58 C, and by the Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights also adopted by the Conference.

5.7 As requested by the Assembly in its resolution 32/40 B, the Secretary-General established, in 1978, a Special Unit on Palestinian Rights. Pursuant to Assembly resolutions 34/65 D of 12 December 1979 and 36/120 B of 10 December 1981, the

Secretary-General in 1982 redesignated the Special Unit as the Division for Palestinian Rights. The Division, which forms part of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services, is charged with dissemination of information on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and on the efforts of the United Nations to promote the attainment of those rights, heightening awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine and creation of a favourable atmosphere for the full implementation of the recommendations of the Committee.

5.8 In successive resolutions the Assembly has elaborated a strategy for promoting the goals of the Committee through the continued monitoring of the situation on the ground and recommendations for action accordingly, provision of the necessary substantive support to the Committee, preparation of studies and publications, organization of a programme of meetings with experts, parliamentarians, government representatives, non-governmental organizations and others, and implementation of a public information programme on the subject.

5.9 In the implementation of the programme, close co-ordination is required, within the United Nations, with the Department of Public Information, the Centre on Human Rights, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. Substantive co-operation, within the United Nations system, will also be required with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the World Health Organization, each of which has a mandate to carry out activities related to the question of Palestine within its sphere of competence. Co-ordination and co-operation will further be sought with other units of the Secretariat and bodies of the United Nations system in appropriate activities relating to the question of Palestine.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

5.10 The activities of the Committee and the Division in this area are included under programme 5 in a single subprogramme, "Question of Palestine: exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights". Consequently, no priorities can be assigned.

B. Subprogramme

SUBPROGRAMME. QUESTION OF PALESTINE: EXERCISE BY THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE OF ITS INALIENABLE RIGHTS

(a) Objectives

5.11 The legislative authority for this subprogramme is spelled out in the initial mandates cited in paragraph 5.3 above and in General Assembly resolutions 34/65 D, 36/120 B, 38/58 B and C and 40/96 B, and the other annual resolutions of the Assembly on the question of Palestine, most recently resolutions 44/41 A to C and 44/42.

5.12 The programme will aim to provide effective support for the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in reviewing the situation in order to promote a just solution of the question of Palestine. In that context, it will seek to disseminate information on the situation of the Palestinian people and of proposals to bring about a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

5.13 In the course of the medium-term plan period, the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services will undertake the following functions:

(a) To continue to assist the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in its efforts to promote the implementation of its recommendations, of the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine in 1983, of General Assembly resolution 44/42 regarding the convening of the proposed International Peace Conference on the Middle East and of other activities mandated by the Assembly, including representation by the Committee at conferences and meetings on the question of Palestine and the sending of Committee delegations as considered appropriate;

(b) To monitor political and other developments affecting the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, to follow relevant activities of the organs and organizations of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and to prepare documentation, reports and bulletins on such developments;

(c) To organize, co-ordinate and provide substantive services for regional symposia, international meetings and preparatory meetings of non-governmental organizations, with the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations and Governments, experts, Committee members and observers, and representatives of United Nations bodies and of intergovernmental organizations in their efforts to increase international awareness of the question of Palestine;

(d) To organize, co-ordinate and provide substantive services for regional seminars with the participation of experts, parliamentarians, government representatives, Committee members and observers, and representatives of United Nations bodies and of intergovernmental organizations;

(e) To prepare studies, information notes and other publications relating to the different aspects of the question of Palestine and to make efforts to achieve their widest dissemination;

(f) To organize at Headquarters the annual commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November.

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MAJOR PROGRAMME I. MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY, DISARMAMENT AND DECOLONIZATION

Programme 6. Elimination of apartheid

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* The present document contains programme 6 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

PROGRAMME 6: ELIMINATION OF APARTHEID

A. Programme

1. General orientation

6.1 The legislative authority of the programme on elimination of apartheid stems from General Assembly resolution 1761 (XVII) of 6 November 1962, which established the Special Committee against Apartheid. The mandate of the Special Committee was expanded by Assembly resolution 2671 A (XXV) of 8 December 1970. The legislative authority of the programme was further elaborated in subsequent annual successive resolutions of the General Assembly on the policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa, the latest of which are resolutions 44/27 of 22 November 1989 and S-16/1 of 2 February 1990, and in resolutions of the Security Council concerning the situation in South Africa, the latest of which are resolutions 581 (1986), 591 (1986), 610 (1988), 615 (1988) and 623 (1988).

6.2 The ultimate objective of the international community as expressed in the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council is the total elimination of the apartheid system in South Africa and the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic society in which all the people of South Africa, irrespective of race, colour or creed, enjoy the same fundamental freedoms and human rights. Until this final objective is achieved, the programme will aim specifically at:

(a) Monitoring closely the situation in South Africa and the actions of the international community regarding the imposition and implementation of sanctions and other restrictive measures and their impact on apartheid South Africa;

(b) Mobilizing international action against apartheid;

(c) Providing assistance to the victims of apartheid;

(d) Promoting a peaceful settlement of the conflict within South Africa through genuine negotiations.

6.3 The question of apartheid in South Africa has been before the Security Council since 1960, when the Council considered the question of the situation in the Union of South Africa, recognizing that it had led to international friction and, if continued, might endanger international peace and security (resolution 134 (1960)). Given the intransigence of the South African Government and its increased policies of repression in the country and of destabilization against neighbouring independent States, the Security Council imposed an arms embargo against South Africa in 1977 (resolution 418 (1977)). Concurrently, over the years the General Assembly recommended an extensive series of sanctions and called repeatedly on all Governments to isolate the South African Government, in particular by ceasing their financial, trade and technological relations and transport links with South Africa. It asked individuals and non-governmental organizations to respect the cultural and sports boycotts; requested transnational corporations, including banks, to withdraw from South Africa and cease providing loans and credits to that country. At the same time, the international community was requested to step up humanitarian, legal and educational assistance to the victims of apartheid.

6.4 In order to isolate further the South African Government and in recognition of the growing importance attached by the international community to the elimination of the racist policies pursued by the South African Government, the General Assembly at its thirty-first session for the first time discussed the item "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa" directly in plenary meeting and invited the South African liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to participate in the discussion of the item. At that session, the Assembly established the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against Apartheid in Sports (resolution 31/6 F). At its thirty-second session, the General Assembly adopted the International Declaration against Apartheid in Sports (resolution 32/105 M).

6.5 At its fortieth session, the General Assembly adopted the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports (resolution 40/64 G, annex). The Convention entered into force on 3 April 1988. Along with the adoption of the Convention, the General Assembly established the Commission against Apartheid in Sports (resolution 40/64 G) whose mandate is to give effect to the provisions of the Convention.

6.6 In accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/35 F, the Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa was established for the purpose of imposing control over the flow of oil and oil products to South Africa and ensuring compliance of Member States with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on that subject.

6.7 Although many of those sanctions and restrictive measures have been implemented by a large number of States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly since the middle of the 1980s, they remain largely unco-ordinated and their implementation has been uneven. While an international consensus has emerged on the need to reach a negotiated settlement in South Africa, it is still far from clear whether the South African Government is committed to the total eradication of apartheid. The international community has repeatedly declared that apartheid cannot be reformed and that it is to be totally dismantled.

6.8 It should be stressed, however, that although the system of apartheid in South Africa still persists, the arms embargo and the sanctions and other restrictive measures adopted by many Governments have, to a great extent, forced the South African Government to reconsider its aggressive and racist policies. The implementation of the Namibian settlement agreement and a number of political measures taken within South Africa exemplify the positive outcome of international pressure.

2. Overall strategy

6.9 While recent developments indicate the strong possibility of further positive changes in South Africa during the period covered by the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, it is the stated intention of the General Assembly that the Special Committee and other bodies engaged in activities against apartheid continue their activities unabated until the system of apartheid has been totally dismantled. The planning of the activities of the Special Committee and of other bodies engaged in activities against apartheid, as well as those of the Centre against Apartheid, is therefore being undertaken as hitherto.

6.10 The programme will be implemented by the Special Committee against Apartheid, as the focal point within the United Nations system for issues related specifically to the policies of apartheid in South Africa, with the assistance of the Centre against Apartheid. The Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa, the Commission against Apartheid in Sports, the Committee of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa will participate in the implementation of the programme in their respective areas of responsibility.

6.11 The work of the Centre against Apartheid in the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs is based exclusively on the mandates given annually by the General Assembly and on the programmes of work of the Special Committee and other bodies engaged in activities against apartheid, which are also decided annually by the General Assembly. The major areas of work for the Centre will continue to be research and monitoring of developments in South Africa and the international response to apartheid; substantive servicing of the intergovernmental activities under the programme, including servicing of missions of the Special Committee and of conferences, seminars and other events organized or sponsored by the Special Committee and by other bodies engaged in activities against apartheid, which entails the preparation of research papers, specialized studies and reports for the Special Committee against Apartheid and other organs; the dissemination of information to mobilize international action against apartheid and promotional activities using the resources of the Trust Fund for Special Projects of the Special Committee against Apartheid and the Trust Fund for Publicity against Apartheid; and the provision of assistance to victims of apartheid using the resources of the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and the Trust Fund for the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, and encouraging direct contributions to voluntary organizations engaged in providing humanitarian assistance to victims of apartheid.

6.12 Co-ordination will be maintained with other organs of the United Nations, in particular through consultations on and participation in the deliberations of the Security Council Committee established by Council resolution 421 (1977) concerning the question of South Africa, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Commission on Human Rights, and the Commission on Transnational Corporations, as well as with specialized agencies (including the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Collaboration will also continue with regional and interregional organizations, southern African liberation movements recognized by OAU, anti-apartheid movements, trade unions, confederations, non-governmental organizations and other organizations and individuals with an active interest in the elimination of apartheid.

6.13 For the publicity campaign against apartheid there will be liaison with the Committee on Information with regard to information policy and with the Department of Public Information with regard to the production of publications, films and other publicity material, as well as radio and press coverage world wide on events relating to apartheid. The co-ordination of information activities against apartheid between the Centre against Apartheid and the Centre for Human Rights, the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, the Department for Special

Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship and other relevant units of the Secretariat will also continue. The co-operation of anti-apartheid movements and other non-governmental organizations world wide will also be solicited on specific projects where it is deemed that such contacts will enhance the effects of the desired publicity.

3. Sub-programme structure and priorities

6.14 In the light of the above orientation and the trends and prospects relating to the activities of the Special Committee and other organs engaged in activities against apartheid and those of the Centre against Apartheid, the United Nations programme on elimination of apartheid will consist of the following two subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1: Promotion and co-ordination of international action against apartheid

Subprogramme 2: Publicity against apartheid

6.15 As the two sub-programmes are closely interrelated, no priority designation between them is proposed.

B. Sub-programmes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. PROMOTION AND CO-ORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID

(a) Objectives

6.16 The legislative authority for this subprogramme is set out in General Assembly resolutions 1761 (XVII), 2054 B (XX), 2349 (XXII) and other annual resolutions, the most recent of which are resolutions 40/64, 41/35, 42/23, 42/75, 43/50, 44/27 and S-16/1.

6.17 In a number of United Nations resolutions adopted since 1962, appeals have been made to all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to increase their co-operation with the Special Committee against Apartheid in the discharge of its mandate, by taking concrete measures to isolate the South African régime as a means of making progress towards the elimination of apartheid. The measures adopted at the forty-fourth session and the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly call for international solidarity with the liberation struggle in South Africa, international support for the eradication of apartheid in South Africa through genuine negotiations, the imposition, co-ordination and strict monitoring of measures against racist South Africa, international financial pressure on the apartheid economy of South Africa, an oil embargo against South Africa, the cessation of military collaboration with South Africa, concerted international action for the elimination of apartheid, analysis of the sanctions, monitoring mechanisms of governmental and intergovernmental organizations, and support for the work of the Commission against Apartheid in Sports. Although these measures have been implemented by a large number of States and intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies, they have not been sufficiently effective because of a lack of international co-ordination and the failure of the main trading partners of

South Africa to comply with the various requests contained in the resolutions. Also, the victims of apartheid in South Africa, especially those imprisoned or restricted for their opposition to these discriminatory practices, are in continuous need of humanitarian and educational assistance.

6.18 Consequently, this subprogramme will address itself to increasing the momentum of international concern by:

(a) Strengthening the monitoring and analysis of the situation in South Africa, the monitoring of the international response including the implications of restrictive measures aimed at applying pressure to ensure a speedy end to apartheid, and forging further international consensus;

(b) Providing humanitarian, legal and educational assistance to the victims of apartheid, including scholarships to students.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

6.19 The Centre against Apartheid will service the Special Committee against Apartheid, which monitors the situation in South Africa and the relevant actions of the international community, and is responsible for mobilizing international action against apartheid, its subsidiary intergovernmental bodies and other intergovernmental bodies such as the Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa, the Commission against Apartheid in Sports, the Committee of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa.

6.20 The Centre will also assist the Secretary-General in fulfilling his responsibilities under the Charter in relation to the activities under this programme that may be defined towards the elimination of apartheid in the course of the period 1992-1997, in particular through genuine negotiations.

6.21 The Centre will undertake research and prepare analytical studies and reports on developments concerning apartheid, on all aspects of the implementation of United Nations resolutions on developments in the internal situation in South Africa and on the impact of apartheid in the region; and assess the international response to apartheid, including analysis of links of States, enterprises and individuals with South Africa and study on the implementation of the sanctions and other restrictive measures on South Africa and their impact on the South African economy and racial policies.

6.22 The Centre will service seminars, conferences and other meetings in different regions aimed at disseminating its findings as approved by the Special Committee, and will promote ways of translating those findings into intergovernmental and governmental policies and measures. In this context, the Centre will place a particular emphasis on meetings to be organized with fewer but high calibre participants who could have the greatest impact on governmental decision-making and/or public opinion-forming. It will also provide documentation, advice and assistance in connection with missions undertaken by the Special Committee to consult with Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

6.23 The Centre will promote voluntary contributions to and administer the Trust Fund for Special Projects of the Special Committee against Apartheid, the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, including the selection of candidates for scholarships, and for this purpose it will co-operate with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the specialized agencies, OAU and other agencies that offer scholarships to southern Africans for study abroad.

SUBPROGRAMME 2: PUBLICITY AGAINST APARTHEID

(a) Objectives

6.24 The legislative authority for this subprogramme is set out in General Assembly resolutions 2671 (XXV), whereby the publicity campaign against apartheid was launched, 3151 (XXVIII), and the subsequent annual resolutions on the subject, including 40/64, 41/35, 42/23, 43/50 and 44/27.

6.25 A key challenge for the 1990s is to ensure that the momentum of international concern does not relent and the widest publicity and promotion of international action is responsive to developments in South Africa and to the need for the attainment of the overall objectives of the programme. The objectives of the subprogramme, therefore, are:

(a) Devising innovative ways and means to promote the international campaign against apartheid;

(b) Reaching the largest possible audience through the preparation and dissemination of publicity material against apartheid;

(c) Co-operating with and providing assistance to non-governmental organizations, other public and private institutions and the media in support of their anti-apartheid information activities;

(d) Encouraging voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Publicity Against Apartheid.

(b) Course of action by the Secretariat

6.26 The Centre against Apartheid will assist the Special Committee, its subsidiary bodies, the Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa and the Commission against Apartheid in Sports in the promotion of the international campaign against apartheid, by acting as their executing agent.

6.27 The following activities and services will be undertaken by the Centre against Apartheid in the period 1992-1997:

(a) In co-operation with the Department of Public Information, preparing and disseminating publicity material against apartheid (notes, brochures, posters, videos, films, exhibits) in various languages;

(b) Promoting policies aiming at the sports and cultural isolation of the apartheid régime, preparing and publishing registers of sportsmen, entertainers, actors and others who have visited South Africa, and actively persuading sports people and artists in the registers to follow the above policies;

(c) Co-operating with non-governmental organizations and national committees against apartheid and with other United Nations regional and international bodies to ensure co-ordination of publicity activities against apartheid;

(d) Serving as a focal point in the Secretariat in dealing with public enquiries regarding apartheid;

(e) Fund-raising for the Trust Fund for Publicity against Apartheid, the resources of which are used for the issuance of publications in languages other than English and French, preparation of a series of special purpose publications and other publications and audio-visual material.

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Programme 7. Disarmament

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* The present document contains programme 7 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

PROGRAMME 7. DISARMAMENT

A. Programme

1. General orientation

7.1 The legislative authority of the programme on disarmament stems from Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations, which declares as one of the purposes of the United Nations the maintenance of international peace and security. On 30 June 1978, the General Assembly proclaimed the aims and purposes for disarmament in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session, the first special session devoted to disarmament (resolution S-10/2). In that document the General Assembly stated, inter alia, that all States must be actively concerned with and contribute to measures of disarmament and arms limitation, which have an essential part to play in maintaining and strengthening international security. The Assembly declared that the role and responsibility of the United Nations in the sphere of disarmament, in accordance with its Charter, had to be strengthened.

7.2 In the Final Document, in section IV, entitled "Machinery", the General Assembly described ways of revitalizing disarmament machinery, constituting appropriate forums, improving study and information functions and increasing contacts with non-governmental organizations and research institutions. Those provisions have been the basis for the Secretary-General's disarmament programme.

7.3 On 7 June 1982, at its twelfth special session, the General Assembly formally launched the World Disarmament Campaign under United Nations auspices. In addition to reaffirming the Final Document, the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session, adopted by consensus in decision S-12/24 of 10 July 1982, included an annex setting out the objectives, contents and modalities of the Campaign. The Campaign's primary purpose is to inform, to educate and to generate public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament.

7.4 In subsequent years the General Assembly has continued to adopt a considerable number of resolutions and decisions, which have established mandates for action by the Secretary-General in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. The functions and organization of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, which is responsible for carrying out the programme, are described in ST/SGB/Organization, section DDA, of 2 August 1988.

7.5 The resolve of the international community to save future generations from the scourge of war was expressed in the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations. The advent of nuclear weapons in 1945 threw that concern into sharp relief from the inception of the Organization, a concern that mounted through the 1950s to the 1970s as the maintenance of arms and armed forces continued to consume some 5 per cent of gross world product. Anxieties were further fuelled by several other factors, including technological advances in weapons design, by increasing arms transfers, and by the ever-rising number of nuclear warheads and delivery systems. It was the combination of these and other circumstances, together with the emergence of a strong sentiment in the international community that action was needed, that led to the holding in 1978 of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, the first devoted to disarmament.

7.6 Following 1978, as steps were taken to implement the Programme of Action set out in the Final Document, there was a significant increase in activities concerned with arms limitation and disarmament, both inside and outside the United Nations. Public interest and concern grew considerably. At the same time, reflecting the tensions present in the international climate during the first half of the 1980s, there was no lessening of military expenditures in the world. However, in the second half of the 1980s, the international atmosphere began to improve, and it was soon reflected in increased activity in bilateral, regional and multilateral negotiations.

7.7 It is now evident that, after many years of difficulty and virtual stagnation, a turning-point has been reached at the end of the 1980s in efforts to halt and reverse the constant haemorrhaging of expenditures on arms and armed forces. The 1990s offer long-awaited opportunities for significant advances in bilateral, multilateral and regional disarmament measures.

7.8 It seems probable that in the early years of the new decade there will be significant reductions in strategic nuclear arms between the two major Powers, a regional agreement regarding reductions in conventional arms and armed forces in Europe, and a multilateral convention on chemical weapons. These three advances will, hopefully, be the centre-pieces of much wider efforts. Pressures to achieve further reductions in nuclear weapons will continue, as will demands to make progress towards a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, probably accompanied by an international seismic monitoring network to verify compliance with such a treaty. Further multilateral efforts will continue to promote nuclear-free zones, to prevent an arms race in outer space, to discourage the proliferation of ballistic missiles, to strengthen regional measures in support of peace and disarmament, and to encourage regional confidence- and security-building measures. It will be necessary to ensure that quantitative reductions are not simply replaced by a qualitative arms race. Issues of conventional disarmament are likely to attract increased attention, with an emphasis being given to aspects such as limitations on arms transfers, reductions in military expenditures, conversion and possible naval arms limitations. Of many topics for multilateral consideration and action, one that is likely to see considerable discussion is that of verification of multilateral arms limitation and disarmament agreements and the potential role of the United Nations in such activities, or in the wider area of monitoring developments in areas of tension and potential crisis with a view to the prevention of conflict before it occurs.

7.9 These issues seem likely to create a number of demands for action by the Department for Disarmament Affairs. The intergovernmental deliberative and negotiating organs will continue to require considerable substantive support. It will be necessary for the Department as a whole to follow the course of developments at the bilateral, regional and global levels and to assess their impact on the work of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. The dynamic nature of developments and the complexity of issues being addressed are likely to require continuous expert monitoring, analysis and study with a view to providing the General Assembly and other users with authoritative information, reports and possible policy recommendations. There will also be a need to maintain a flow of factual and objective information, through a vigorous publications programme, to members of the public, non-governmental organizations and other constituencies on the progress of arms reductions, on the economic and social benefits of disarmament, on ongoing negotiations and on new issues as they arise. Furthermore, the Department should improve its services to developing

countries to facilitate a wider understanding of global disarmament issues as well as consideration of matters of more regional or subregional concern.

7.10 At the same time, disarmament and security will probably become more interactive and the fast-moving course of events is likely to result in shifting and unpredictable situations. In such circumstances, it is neither practicable nor advisable to structure subprogrammes within a restrictive harness that might limit the Organization's capacity to react and respond to the stimuli of events and to unexpected requirements that may emerge. For these reasons, it will be necessary to retain flexibility for review.

2. Overall strategy

7.11 The overall objective of achieving disarmament is inevitably long-term in nature. Within that long-term objective, the purposes and functions of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, derived from existing mandates and related to the programme as a whole in response to current and emerging problems and issues as described above, are as follows:

(a) To assist and advise the Secretary-General in the discharge of his responsibilities for disarmament;

(b) To assist Governments and intergovernmental bodies in the preparations for and conduct of deliberations and negotiations, to take follow-up action on the decisions of the General Assembly and other bodies, and on agreements, as may be necessary;

(c) To provide in-depth, accurate and useful information on disarmament matters to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutions, the general public and others;

(d) To co-ordinate and implement activities of the World Disarmament Campaign;

(e) To promote a more thorough understanding of the complex factors involved in the process of disarmament through in-depth and comprehensive monitoring, analysis and study of specific aspects of disarmament;

(f) To provide a fellowship programme, training and advisory services programme for national public officials, particularly those from developing countries;

(g) To administer and develop the activities of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, and the Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

7.12 The means of action necessary to achieve the objectives of the disarmament programme are many and varied. The Department will continue to provide the requisite substantive, secretariat and administrative services to the First Committee, to the subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly concerned with disarmament matters, to the Conference on Disarmament, which has been identified by the Assembly as the single multilateral negotiating forum, and to its subsidiary bodies, to ad hoc disarmament bodies as may be established, to review conferences

and other meetings of parties to multilateral agreements on disarmament and related matters, and to expert groups assisting the Secretary-General in undertaking disarmament studies.

7.13 Furthermore, the Department will be responsible for writing and producing a range of publications, on a regular basis, aimed at presenting information on the subject-matter in a factual and objective manner. In addition to requiring substantive knowledge and political sensitivity, this task also needs arrangements to gather and organize appropriate information for use by delegations, non-governmental organizations and research institutes, as well as for departmental use. The Department's use of computer data-base services in this respect will also be developed.

7.14 The promotion of informed exchanges between Governments, researchers, scientists and other experts, and non-governmental organizations in the form of symposia, seminars and conferences, both within and outside the World Disarmament Campaign, has proved to be of considerable value and will be further encouraged. In this connection, it should be recalled that the World Disarmament Campaign is expected to be funded in part by voluntary contributions.

7.15 The monitoring, analysis and study functions can be expected to expand during the period covered by the medium-term plan, reflecting the improved international climate and the expressed readiness of Governments to discuss, deliberate and negotiate issues on which there has been little or no progress in the past. In this context, continuance of the well-established series of disarmament studies carried out by the Secretary-General is expected to remain of major importance. Rapid changes and developments in the international arena seem likely to have particular significance in the work of the Department in those functions.

7.16 The implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign will continue to require extensive liaison with non-governmental organizations, the media, parliamentarians, the educational community and research institutions. In some respects, the work of the Campaign will be carried out in connection with the work of the three regional centres (in Africa, in Latin America and in Asia). These activities rely heavily on voluntary contributions.

7.17 The present fellowship programme and the more recent training and advisory services programme are designed specifically to give training to junior national public officials, particularly those from developing countries. Other means of providing assistance to developing countries have been through the establishment of the regional centres in Lomé, Lima and Kathmandu. Those activities will be continued and strengthened.

7.18 To carry out its functions, the Department for Disarmament Affairs is organized into four branches, three of which are based in New York while the fourth is situated at Geneva. The task of the latter is to service the negotiations being carried out in the Conference on Disarmament. The three Regional Centres and the Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme are responsible directly to the Under-Secretary-General.

7.19 Co-ordination is required in several instances. Under the action programme adopted by the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, the Department is responsible for co-ordinating intra-Secretariat and system-wide inputs. The Department also maintains liaison with intergovernmental

organizations, specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on a case-by-case basis as required. In addition, the Department has a responsibility for co-ordinating within the United Nations system the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign. Within the Secretariat, co-ordination is necessary in a similar manner with other Departments such as the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Office for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services, the Office for Research and the Collection of Information, the Office of Legal Affairs, the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Conference Services and the Department of Public Information.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

7.20 In the light of the above orientations and the trends and prospects regarding disarmament matters during the period of the plan, the programme will consist of the following subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1. Deliberation and negotiation

Subprogramme 2. Publications, information and World Disarmament Campaign

Subprogramme 3. Monitoring, analysis and studies

Subprogramme 4. Assistance to developing countries on disarmament issues: regional centres; fellowship, training and advisory services.

7.21 Among the many tasks entrusted to the programme, highest priority will be allocated to activities involving deliberation, negotiation and follow-up activities.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1: DELIBERATION AND NEGOTIATION

(a) Objectives

7.22 The principal legislative authority derives from General Assembly resolutions 31/90, S-10/2, 33/71 H, 34/83 L, 35/46, S-12/24, 39/151 A, 41/86 O, 41/61, 43/67, 43/77 B, 43/82, 44/106, 44/115 B and C, 44/116 O and Q, 44/119 C, D and H and 44/120.

7.23 It is expected that further positive developments in the field of arms limitation and disarmament may transpire during the period of the medium-term plan with respect to bilateral, multilateral and regional disarmament measures. These developments will have an inevitable impact in placing additional demands in terms of the activities under the subprogramme in so far as its primary objective is to provide the requisite assistance to Governments and intergovernmental bodies in the context of their deliberative and negotiating efforts aimed at intensifying and advancing the process of arms limitation and disarmament.

7.24 More specifically the Department for Disarmament Affairs has the following objectives under the subprogramme:

(a) To provide secretariat, administrative and substantive support services to the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission, the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference, 1/ their working groups and other disarmament bodies that may be set up by the General Assembly, including at its special sessions devoted to disarmament, and/or its subsidiary bodies; and to provide substantive support to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean; 2/

(b) To provide secretariat, administrative and substantive support services for the Conference on Disarmament and its subsidiary bodies;

(c) To provide secretariat, administrative and substantive support services to preparatory committees, multilateral conferences and their subsidiary bodies, including review conferences of existing treaties, and to meetings convened to negotiate legal instruments in the field of disarmament;

(d) To prepare and co-ordinate the provision of the documentation needed for the various disarmament bodies;

(e) To follow-up on resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and other legislative bodies and to prepare reports thereon to the Assembly, as required, including periodic surveys of the status of adherence to existing disarmament agreements, treaties and conventions;

(f) To plan and co-ordinate the programme of meetings of disarmament bodies serviced by the Department on an annual basis in co-operation with the Department of Conference Services;

(g) To carry out the functions, as assigned to the Department, deriving from the Secretary-General's role as depository of multilateral conventions and agreements in the field of disarmament.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

7.25 Administrative and substantive assistance and secretariat services will continue to be provided to the disarmament machinery, taking into account the new developments in the field of disarmament. In addition, the Department for Disarmament Affairs will continue to provide services to a number of review conferences of treaties, and to their respective preparatory committees. Assistance will also be provided to Governments in connection with the Procedures for Upholding the Authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol. An updated list of experts and laboratories required for purposes of investigation of alleged use of chemical weapons and an annual register of information on nuclear test explosions will be maintained.

7.26 During the plan period the wide range of activities under this subprogramme will cover a number of broad but distinct categories, which include the following components:

(a) Preparatory phase: Planning and organization of meetings of disarmament bodies, including their ad hoc working groups and meetings of officers, preparation and/or co-ordination of reports and other documentation as mandated by legislative organs, and of information notes and other background material as appropriate. Preparatory work also involves consultations related to procedural as well as substantive matters with delegations, with the chairmen and other officers of the legislative and other intergovernmental organs concerned, as well as through ad hoc working groups and preparatory committees of the various disarmament bodies, including conferences;

(b) Legislative process:

(i) Deliberative phase: The provision of substantive, technical and other services to disarmament bodies, in order to ensure the orderly and effective conduct of business and in that connection the preparation, inter alia, of their draft agenda, annotated agenda, draft rules of procedures, programme of work, procedural briefs and, as required, substantive statements, and the relevant documentation; assistance in matters relating to legal issues, procedure and interpretation of rules, as well as in facilitating the process of consultations, especially in the context of consideration and adoption of draft resolutions and decisions, amendments and treaty provisions, as well as revisions, reports and final documents;

(ii) Negotiating phase: Assistance to Governments in resolving issues during the negotiating phase by providing background analyses, suggesting alternative approaches or solutions to problems and assisting in consultations among Member States;

(iii) Follow-up and implementation: Activities during the medium-term period will continue to consist of following up on General Assembly resolutions and decisions, including those ranging from recurrent reports to complying with special instructions and major actions arising from specific Assembly mandates. With regard to multilateral disarmament agreements, the Department carries out the functions deriving from the Secretary-General's role as depository of multilateral conventions and agreements in the field of disarmament, and provides appropriate services for relevant review conferences, including monitoring the process of the signature and ratification of those agreements.

7.27 The above are, to a large extent, considered as continuing functions to be carried out pursuant to specific mandates emanating from legislative decisions. Based on the experience of previous review conferences and in accordance with relevant directives in the respective final documents and/or treaties, the following major conferences are likely to take place during the plan period: the second review Conference on the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques; the fourth review conference of the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof, and the next conference on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

7.28 The Department for Disarmament Affairs will also have to be prepared to assume additional responsibilities arising from certain recent decisions, such as

those related to the Geneva Protocol of 1925, and future activities that might emerge as a result of the conclusion of agreements in areas such as chemical weapons and radiological weapons.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. PUBLICATIONS, INFORMATION AND WORLD DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN

(a) Objectives

7.29 The legislative authority for the subprogramme, building on previous General Assembly resolutions, derives from resolutions 31/90, 32/87 E, S-10/2, 33/71 G, 37/100 I, 38/73 D, 39/63 A and D, 40/151 B and D, 41/60 A and B, 42/39 G, 43/76 C, 44/117 A and 44/123.

7.30 Member States require reliable and useful reference and information materials in order to be able to participate more fully in deliberations and negotiations in the area of arms limitation and disarmament. The support of a well-informed public is also essential for sustained progress on issues of arms limitation, disarmament and security. As those questions are seen by Member States as intimately linked to their security, the preparation of reference and information materials, and of publicity and dissemination programmes in the area is therefore a highly sensitive activity requiring a high degree of substantive knowledge and political specialization. Such products have to be factually correct, balanced and objective in order to continue to enjoy the confidence of governmental and non-governmental sectors of society. At the same time, dissemination has to be global: security is a matter of concern in all regions.

7.31 Major problems to be addressed include the handling of an increasingly heavy demand for information and documentation on disarmament, as well as the need further to diversify publications to serve, on the one hand, government officials engaged in arms limitation and disarmament, as well as a growing number of well-informed organizations and the research community, and, on the other hand, a public less well-versed in disarmament matters, which, however, has become more aware of disarmament issues and is asking for factual information. The latter also applies to schools and individuals, as education for peace and disarmament is becoming more and more part of an established curriculum.

7.32 This two-pronged approach can also be seen in the organization of conferences and seminars, as international meetings are held to focus on specific topics, thus furthering the multilateral consideration of an issue, as well as regional meetings that serve as a forum for information and debate, thus furthering co-operation among constituent groups in one region or subregion. A balance will need to be maintained between smaller expert seminars and more general meetings.

7.33 Other problems to be addressed during the period in question also include the need to streamline dissemination of publications and stock/volume control; to increase the entries on the mailing list/register of constituents; and to improve evaluation mechanisms of the subprogramme in order better to respond to needs.

7.34 The primary objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To provide accurate, objective, topical and useful published reference data and information on arms limitation and disarmament to government officials; elected representatives; non-governmental organizations, public interest groups and

the interested general public; the educational and research communities; and the media;

(b) To inform, to educate and to generate public understanding of the importance of and support for multilateral action, including by United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament, in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, in a factual, balanced and objective manner;

(c) To facilitate unimpeded access to, and an exchange of information on, ideas between public sector and public interest groups and organizations, and to provide a factually informed debate on arms limitation and disarmament matters;

(d) To organize meetings to facilitate exchanges of views and information between governmental and non-governmental sectors, and between governmental and other experts in order to facilitate the search for common ground.

7.35 In order to respond to the different types of readership, the Department prepares a wide range of publications, ranging from highly specialized and detailed materials to information presented in easily accessible form for the general reader. Some publications are issued annually, while others are issued quarterly or bimonthly.

7.36 The specific objectives in the area of collection and organization of reference materials are to maintain and expand the Disarmament Reference Library (hard-copy data base) and to develop a system for electronic collection, storage and retrieval of information to respond to specific needs of the Department, and over time, to develop a reference service of primary and secondary sources of information on disarmament for delegations and other relevant end-users.

7.37 The specific objectives in the area of the World Disarmament Campaign are:

(a) To encourage Member States to co-operate with the United Nations to ensure a better flow of information with regard to the various aspects of disarmament and to foster an atmosphere conducive to progress in disarmament deliberations. The Campaign encourages bilateral and multilateral exchanges on the basis of reciprocity and mutual agreement and gives the widest possible dissemination to such exchanges, inter alia, among government officials, experts, researchers and representatives of the non-governmental community of different countries;

(b) To implement the mandate of the Campaign as set by the General Assembly: to inform, to educate and to generate public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament and to ensure the widest possible dissemination of accurate information and unimpeded access for all sectors of the public to a broad range of information and opinions on questions of arms limitation and disarmament.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

7.38 The Department will continue, improve and diversify its programme of publications. More use will be made of electronic copy-preparation techniques, including desk-top publishing equipment, and efforts will continue to make the publication programme more cost-effective and more attractive to the end-users.

Efforts will continue to seek the co-operation of Member States to publish information materials in languages other than the six official languages of the United Nations.

7.39 The Department will continue and further develop the organization of regional and other meetings to facilitate exchanges of views and information between the governmental and non-governmental sectors concerned with arms limitation and disarmament. In response to increased offers by Governments and organizations in recent years, the Department will, in particular, focus on smaller-scale high-level expert seminars devoted to specific topics where informal discussions might be fruitful in helping to delineate areas of possible negotiation and agreement.

7.40 Under the subprogramme, the Department will also carry out the following activities:

(a) The organization and co-ordination of participation of non-governmental organizations in meetings and conferences of the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies;

(b) The organization of special events to promote the objectives of disarmament, such as Disarmament Week (mandated by the General Assembly), fund raising, inter alia, through a yearly pledging conference to support the Department's Campaign activities, forums and panel discussions for non-governmental organization representatives and the public, and so on;

(c) Interpersonal communications, provision of speakers and panelists for meetings and conferences, as well as for briefings and training for students and non-governmental representatives in the field of disarmament;

(d) Co-ordination of Campaign activities within the United Nations system.

7.41 Methods of distribution will be improved through the expansion of direct mailing and through refining and adding to the Department's specialized mailing-list/register. The Department's physical handling capacity of distribution also needs to be improved, and the regular mailing schedule of six times a year will be maintained. In this respect, the Department will also continue its close co-operation with the network of United Nations information centres around the world, the regional centres in Lima, Lomé and Kathmandu, and the national centres in support of the World Disarmament Campaign, thus further increasing dissemination of reference and information materials.

SUBPROGRAMME 3: MONITORING, ANALYSIS AND STUDIES

(a) Objectives

7.42 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 31/90, S-10/2, 35/46, 37/84, 43/75, 44/116, 44/117 and 44/118 A and B.

7.43 Since 1978 the General Assembly has mandated more than 30 studies on arms limitation and disarmament issues. In the course of providing substantive support for these projects, the work has involved gathering and organizing a great deal of information on the issues, following developments, reviewing publications and establishing and maintaining contacts with Governments, research institutes and other sources of relevant scientific and technical advice. In recent years the

issues studied have included disarmament and development, deterrence, the economic and social consequences of the arms race, nuclear weapons, conventional disarmament, the climatic and other global effects of nuclear war, aspects of conventional arms transfers and verification.

7.44 The complex nature of the issues and the pace of events indicated an increased need for enhanced arrangements for monitoring and analysis of trends and developments. Accordingly, in 1988, the Monitoring, Analysis and Studies Branch was established in order to address these tasks more effectively.

7.45 The overall objectives of the subprogramme derive in part from the implementation of recommendation 20 of the Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, 3/ which refers specifically to the work of the Department. These objectives are designed to respond to the demands upon the Secretariat emanating from an enhanced political role of the Organization; the growing interaction between issues of disarmament, security, conflict resolution and economic well-being; the fast pace of international developments; and the multiplicity in the nature and sources of information.

7.46 The specific objectives of the subprogramme are as follows:

(a) To monitor the activities of the United Nations system relating to the issues of armament, arms limitation and disarmament, with a view to promoting a unified, effective and credible approach to such issues within the system;

(b) To utilize the existing mechanisms and make such ad hoc arrangements as may be requested by the General Assembly to follow developments affecting the process of arms reduction, international security and disarmament;

(c) To provide a well-researched base for analyses and political assessments of new trends and developments in the field of armament, arms limitations and disarmament within and outside the United Nations system;

(d) To facilitate the exchange of national experiences in dealing with the impact of actual reductions in the level of armaments and armed forces.

(b) Course of action by the Secretariat

7.47 The course of action of the Secretariat will be based on the following activities:

(a) Compilation and retrieval of specialized and technical materials for assisting the Secretary-General in monitoring trends in military spending, following new scientific and technological developments and establishing such mechanisms as may be requested by the General Assembly to co-ordinate inter-agency and intra-Secretariat inputs;

(b) Preparation of regular political assessments and research papers, as required on subjects of frequent inquiry; special publications; contributions to expert panels, seminars and conferences organized by and outside the United Nations;

(c) Executing specific studies and their follow-up as mandated by the General Assembly with greater emphasis on substantive in-house input for the content of analysis through such activities as preparation of annotated bibliographies; surveys of literature; compilation of relevant United Nations decisions and documents; and consultations with acknowledged experts;

(d) Substantive servicing of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters in the execution of all aspects of its work within its mandate, including its functions as the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research;

(e) Developing and maintaining close co-operation with research institutes working on arms limitation and disarmament matters; in this regard, the Secretariat will also maintain its close relationship with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (an autonomous institution established by the General Assembly in its resolution 39/148 of 17 December 1984 for the purpose of undertaking independent research on disarmament and related problems) in order to ensure optimum use of available resources and minimize duplication of effort.

SUBPROGRAMME 4: ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES: REGIONAL CENTRES; FELLOWSHIP, TRAINING AND ADVISORY SERVICES

(a) Objectives

7.48 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from the following General Assembly resolutions: (a) with regard to the establishment and operation of the regional centres, 40/151 G, 41/60 D and J, 42/39 D, J and K, 43/76 D, G and H, and 44/117 E; (b) with regard to the activities pertaining to fellowship, training and advisory services, S-10/2, 33/71 E, 34/83 D, 35/152 A, 36/92 A, 37/100 G, 38/73 C, S-12/24, 39/63 B, 40/151 H, 41/60 H, 42/39 I, 43/76 F and 44/117 E.

7.49 The regional centres were established to seek to promote relations based on mutual confidence and security between the countries of the respective regions in a spirit of solidarity and co-operation for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament. In order to halt and reverse the trend towards the increased acquisition of armaments by countries in the regions concerned, it is considered vital to discourage and remove the causes for such arms acquisition by promoting the peaceful resolution of disputes and the enhancement of confidence and trust among States.

7.50 The disarmament fellowship programme was launched by the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament, in 1978, with the aim of promoting expertise in disarmament, particularly in the developing countries. The regional disarmament training and advisory services were established in 1988. Like the disarmament fellowship programme, they are especially geared towards strengthening the ability of government officials and diplomats, particularly in developing countries, to participate more fully and effectively in current disarmament efforts.

7.51 The objectives of the subprogramme are essentially the provision of services primarily for the benefit of the developing countries through:

(a) The Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (Lomé), the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (Kathmandu), and the Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima), which have as a common objective the provision of substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the respective regions towards the realization of measures of arms limitation, disarmament and peace. The centres are also responsible for co-ordinating the implementation of regional activities under the World Disarmament Campaign of the United Nations and the realization of its objectives;

(b) Training and advisory services in disarmament and security, which contribute to the training and specialization of national public officials, particularly those from developing countries, to enable them to participate more effectively in international/regional deliberating and negotiating forums in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, and also to provide expertise at the national and regional levels.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

7.52 The activities of the regional centres under the subprogramme will include:

(a) A programme of training on conflict resolution, crisis prevention and management, and confidence-building among the States of each of the regions concerned. The programme will aim at bringing together, periodically or as often as warranted by events, senior military and civilian officials of countries in each region to consider various ways and means of building inter-State confidence and of preventing, managing and resolving conflicts by peaceful means and preparing conditions for arms limitation and disarmament measures;

(b) Conducting of research and study: to carry out, as appropriate, ongoing and specific research and study projects to promote better understanding of certain issues dealing with arms limitation, disarmament and security and/or facilitate deliberations or negotiations among States in those fields. Priority subjects envisaged in that connection may include: the socio-economic consequences of military expenditures and of disarmament, the regional impact of the limitation of international arms transfers, the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, and so on;

(c) The dissemination of information: to act as a resource centre for organizations and individuals concerned with issues of peace, security, disarmament and development, especially within the context of the respective regions;

(d) The organization of seminars, conferences, symposia and workshops: to bring together, as appropriate, various regional constituencies such as governmental officials (military and civilian), academicians, parliamentarians, students and non-governmental organizations;

(e) Advisory services to Member States: in accordance with the legislative mandates derived from General Assembly resolutions, the centres are to provide, upon request, substantive support for initiatives and other efforts of States of the regions concerned.

7.53 As to the fellowship, training and advisory services, it is envisaged that the activities under the subprogramme will include the following:

(a) It is expected that some 25 fellowships will be made available each year in accordance with the General Assembly's decision at its twelfth special session. Participants will be trained at United Nations Headquarters, at Geneva and in various countries hosting study visits. The curriculum content will be modified in the light of cumulative experience and the basic structure of the programme may also change. The curriculum will cover all aspects of disarmament and will consist of lectures, seminars, drafting courses, simulation exercises and on-the-job observation of disarmament bodies, including the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva and the First Committee of the General Assembly. A brief course given by IAEA at Vienna will continue to be part of the programme. In organizing the programme, the Department will draw on expertise from the United Nations systems, from Member States and from international research institutes, universities and non-governmental organizations;

(b) At the regional levels, training of participants will involve organizations of United Nations regional disarmament workshops in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Notes

1/ Although resolution 42/21 renewed the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee, no meetings of the Committee have been convened since 1988.

2/ The Department of Policial and Security Council Affairs has the primary responsibility for servicing the Committee, while the Department for Disarmament Affairs provides substantive support.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49).

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PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME I. MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY, DISARMAMENT AND DECOLONIZATION

Programme 8. Peaceful uses of outer space

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* The present document contains programme 8 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

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PROGRAMME 8. PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

A. Programme

1. General orientation

8.1 By its resolution 1472 (XIV) of 12 December 1959, the General Assembly established the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to review international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space and to study practical and feasible means for giving effect to related programmes which could appropriately be undertaken under United Nations auspices and to study legal problems that might arise from the exploration of outer space. In its resolution 1721 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, the General Assembly expressed its belief that the United Nations should provide a focal point for international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. It also reaffirmed the mandate of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space set out in its resolution 1472 (XIV) and requested the Committee, in co-operation with the Secretary-General and making full use of the functions and resources of the Secretariat, to maintain close contact with concerned organizations, provide for information exchange and assist in the study of measures for promotion of international co-operation in outer space activities. These resolutions form the basic mandate for the programme of activities that has evolved since.

8.2 The exploration and use of outer space were in their infancy when this effort at international co-operation was launched. Since then, the progress achieved has been considerable and the scope and importance of uses of outer space have increased steadily and substantially, notably in communications and applications of remote sensing. There is every indication that this process is continuing. More recently, space technology is proving to be an essential part of the growing international effort to monitor and manage the global environment.

8.3 The extension of human activities to this new "global common" raises important new technical and legal issues as well as the challenge of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. Given the pace of scientific and technical development in this area, the gap between the developed countries and most of the developing countries in their respective capabilities to take advantage of such development will continue to widen unless effective steps are taken to enable all nations to benefit from it.

2. Overall strategy

8.4 At the intergovernmental level, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, together with its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, Legal Sub-Committee and other subsidiary bodies, considers both the legal and scientific and technical aspects of the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, including the effort to make space technology and the benefits of space applications available to developing countries. In doing so, it makes recommendations to the General Assembly and, in turn, is guided by the annual resolutions of the Assembly on the peaceful uses of outer space as well as by the results of the First and Second United Nations Conferences on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held in 1968 and 1982 respectively.

8.5 The work of the Secretariat as it relates to outer space matters is carried out by the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, and by the Office of Legal Affairs. The work of the Outer Space Affairs Division and that of the Office of Legal Affairs as it relates to outer space matters is based exclusively on the mandate given them by the General Assembly and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and both offices receive a renewed mandate for their work at each session of the General Assembly. The major areas of work for the Outer Space Affairs Division will continue to be committee servicing and the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications; for the Office of Legal Affairs, the servicing of the Legal Sub-Committee. By their very nature, committee services, which include preparation of studies and reports for the Committee and its sub-organs, are undertaken upon the explicit request of these bodies. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications, which promotes dissemination of information and transfer of technology relating to peaceful uses of outer space, as well as its financial implications, are reviewed annually in detail by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, and the programme approved by the General Assembly is then carried out by the Outer Space Affairs Division.

8.6 Activities related to various aspects of outer space are undertaken by a number of bodies within the United Nations Secretariat and by a number of specialized agencies. Within the Secretariat, in addition to the wide range of activities conducted by the Outer Space Affairs Division, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development has projects involving remote sensing of non-renewable resources, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is concerned with environmental observations from space, Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) has conducted activities relating to satellite communications and remote sensing for disaster mitigation, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has funded a number of space applications projects. Among the specialized agencies, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) makes extensive use of remote sensing for the development of renewable resources, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) provides co-ordination and technical assistance in the field of satellite communications, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) co-ordinates satellite meteorology, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other agencies are involved in space applications in their domains. All of these activities are co-ordinated through a variety of formal and informal channels, in particular through the annual meetings of the Inter-agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to which the Secretary-General submits an annual report on co-ordination of space activities. The activities of the Outer Space Affairs Division are regularly conducted in co-operation with the specialized United Nations body concerned and also with other international organizations concerned with space. The Division works particularly closely with the Remote Sensing Centre of FAO, the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the European Space Agency (ESA).

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

8.7 The Organization's activities in this regard are included under programme 8 in a single subprogramme, "Peaceful uses of outer space". Consequently, no priorities can be assigned between subprogrammes, although adequate servicing of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary machinery will have first claim on the resources devoted to this programme.

B. Subprogramme

SUBPROGRAMME: PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

(a) Objectives

8.8 The legislative authority for this subprogramme is set out in General Assembly resolutions 3235 (XXIX) of 12 November 1974, 37/90 of 10 December 1982 and 44/46 of 8 December 1989, in addition to the basic mandates cited in paragraph 8.1 above.

8.9 The expansion of human activities into outer space raises important new international political, legal and economic issues. A clearly agreed and understood framework of international legal principles and agreements covering the exploration and uses of outer space is necessary to avoid the risk of disputes between States with a consequent impact on the successful development of the peaceful uses of outer space. Given the increasing use of outer space and the increasing economic importance of those uses, international co-operation and exchange of information are essential to make effective use of the new technologies while minimizing conflicts. Since space technology and its applications are advancing very rapidly, concerted efforts are needed to disseminate information and transfer technology to developing countries if they are not to fall ever further behind developed countries in their ability to benefit from scientific and technical advances in this area.

8.10 Drawing on the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and on resolutions of the General Assembly, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary organs, at their annual sessions, consider the issues before them and make recommendations to the General Assembly. Based on these recommendations, the General Assembly makes decisions on the activities to be carried out by the Secretariat, suggests actions that might be taken by Member States and other international organizations, and adopts the agenda of issues to be considered by the Committee and its subsidiary organs the following year. Recent General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 44/46 of 8 December 1989, have designated the following issues for consideration by the Committee and its subsidiary organs:

(a) Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes; strengthening international co-operation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space as an effective way to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes;

(b) United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system;

(c) Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including the expansion and orientation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications;

(d) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including, inter alia, applications for developing countries;

(e) Use of nuclear-power sources in outer space;

(f) Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space;

(g) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries;

(h) Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine;

(i) Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth's environment, in particular in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme;

(j) Matters relating to planetary exploration;

(k) Matters relating to astronomy;

(l) Spin-off benefits of space technology;

(m) The elaboration of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear-power sources in outer space;

(n) Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of ITU;

(o) Consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries;

(p) All aspects related to the protection and preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment;

(q) Questions relating to the use of space technology in terrestrial search and rescue and in disaster relief activities.

8.11 The subprogramme will aim to:

(a) Provide necessary support to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary machinery in promoting international co-operation in promoting the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, particularly as it relates to the priority issues indicated above and those which may be defined in the course of the plan period;

(b) Assist in the formulation and adoption of legal instruments and standards relating to the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space;

(c) Promote programmes of international co-operation in space science and technology and facilitate international exchange and dissemination of information on space science and technology;

(d) Make the benefits of applications of space science and technology more available to developing countries, inter alia, through training, technical assistance and information exchange.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

8.12 Substantive services will continue to be rendered to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies, including working groups that may be established by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, including the preparation of studies and reports relating to the work of the Committee. Responsibility for these services will continue to be shared between the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, which services the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, and the Office of Legal Affairs, which services the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

8.13 Pursuant to the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, commended by the General Assembly in its resolution 3235 (XXIX), the Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space will be maintained.

8.14 In accordance with the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications will include the organization of regional and interregional workshops, training courses, seminars, meetings of experts each year relating to the practical applications of space technology; assisting in carrying out a fellowship programme for in-depth training of space technologists and application specialists; providing technical advisory services to Member States on satellite communications, meteorology, remote sensing, satellite environmental monitoring and basic space sciences; supporting the establishment and development of national and regional programmes and projects in these fields; assisting in drafting action-oriented technical studies; and assisting in the international exchange and dissemination of information on space science and technology, in particular through the International Space Information Service, which will be upgraded gradually to enhance its efficiency.

8.15 In its resolution 44/46, the General Assembly endorsed designation of 1992 as International Space Year and its use as a vehicle for promotion of international co-operation, with particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries. A major focus of the activities of International Space Year will be the use of space technology for monitoring the global environment, under the title "Mission to Planet Earth". These activities will be co-ordinated with the activities relating to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also planned for 1992. Activities in support of International Space Year in 1990-1991 should culminate in 1992 and it may be anticipated that follow-up activities will be mandated during the plan period.

8.16 In view of the increasing complexity of international activities in outer space and the growing need for global co-operation in this field, the co-ordination of outer space activities and programmes with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system will be strengthened, as will co-operation with other interested bodies. Other tasks assigned to the Secretary-General by the General Assembly, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and subsidiary bodies will be carried out.